ISSN 0704-3716

Canadian Translation of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

No. 5278

The fishing sector in Esbjerg. Part I Description of status of the fishing sector in Esbjerg

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Original title: Fiskerisektoren I Esbjerg. Del I Statusbeskrivelse af fiskerisektoren i Esbjerg

In: Fiskeriøkonomisk Institut (Denmark) 1984, 6 pp (Table of contents and introduction only)

Original language: Danish

Available from:
Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information
National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S2

1986

Fisheries & Oceans
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Pêches & Océans

8 typescript pages

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TRANSLATION BUREAU / BUREAU DES TRADUCTIONS

1

Client's No.–N° du client	Department – Ministère	Division/Branch – Division/Direction	City – Ville
2894105	DFO	IPB	Ottawa
Bureau No.–N° du bureau	**Language – Langue**	**Translator (Initials) – Traducteur (Initiales)**	
LSM 6-01041	Danish	BP	

Fisheries Economic Institute

THE FISHING SECTOR IN ESBJERG

Part I

Description of status of the fishing sector in Esbjerg.

by

Eva Roth

September 1984

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Introduction

This report attempts to shed some light on the developmental tendencies in the fishing in Esbjerg, from a regional point of view.

In order to provide an overview of the fisheries sector, only the later years' development in cutter equipment, catch and landing patterns for the fishery and, for the fishing industries, a number of activities, ownership, size and total production have been presented.

Since employment and unemployment have been key words in Denmark in the past decade, this is dealt with in a special section, just as in other sections particular consideration has been given to the illustration of the employment-related consequences of alternative developmental tendencies.

The limitations for development within the fishery in Esbjerg can be set out in the following manner:

Figure 1

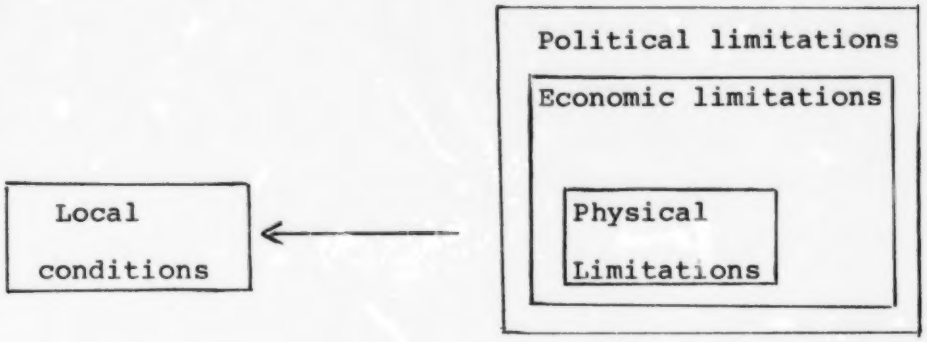

Figure 1 points to the expediency of separating the various physical (technical/biological), economic and political limitations for purposes of analysis.

This is, however, difficult in practice; but it does appear to be possible to rank the limitations to which the fishing sector is subjected in this manner.

The starting point is the introductory status description of the fishing sector. These are the specific local parameters within which the sector works. The local conditions can basically be considered limitations in themselves, but are reinforced by limitations on other levels.

The physical limitations on the development are, first and foremost, the catch possibilities and technical development and adaptation.

The economic limitations are determining factors for the utilization of the stock and the utilization of new technical innovations within the fishery and the fishing industry. The limitations can be analyzed within those structures which characterize the Esbjerg fishing sector, that is, the correlation between vessels, the fishing industry and the local environment, which are determining factors for recruitment, training, new business starts, investment decisions, etc.. It is precisely this dynamic element in the local environment that is of significance to the opportunities of the fishing sector to develop differently in Esbjerg than in other Danish fishing ports. Primarily, the economic limitations will govern the opportunities for the fishing sector to yield a return on the use of the work force, capital and raw material which it devotes to the production of fish and fish products.

Political decisions may change the economic conditions under which the trade is working, as well as placing physical limits on the fishery and the fishing industry. This is most clearly illustrated within the fishery by catch regulations and structure of subsidies. There is still no direct regional fisheries policy where the development of the fishery is regulated on the basis of local conditions.

Generally, for Part I, the status description of the fisheries sector in Esbjerg, and part II, the analysis of the limitations for the development in the Esbjerg Fishing Sector, show that the fishery occupies a very dominant position in the report.

It was originally planned that the report should be weighted based on the significance the various parts of the fishing sector had for Esbjerg, but the available literature and data have led to the fishery's having been given the greatest attention.

Finally, thanks are directed to those who have helped during the preparation of the report with data and good advice.

September 1984.

Eva Roth.